

Anne L. Chasen  
140 W. Pine Street  
Louisville, CO 80027

May 17, 1999

Lyle D. Jaffe  
Dockets Management  
Federal Drug Administration/DHHS  
12420 Parklawn Dr., #1-23  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

I appeal to your sense of compassion and request that the FDA outlaw the practice of forced molting with docket #98P-0203/CP.

Egg laying hens are subjected to a barrage of injustices under intense confinement. Forced molting is just one. The following is a report from someone who visited a commercial egg factory for the first time:

"Upon entering the building my eyes panned slowly down long rows of cages -- full of birds. I could not see where the rows ended. They appeared to join somewhere far off in the distance -- as if I were looking down the center of railroad tracks.

"This building, one of several like it on the property, contained 275,000 hens...Each small cage held between five and seven birds. The hens looked as if they had spent the last month in an automatic clothes dryer. Most had skin which had been rubbed raw. Many were bleeding.

"Barely able to move, the hens were literally crawling on each other. All were incessantly striking out in frustration, pecking at the only thing available -- each other."

Like mammals, birds have a complex nervous system including pain receptors and other physiological components of a highly sensitive organ.

I would like to see the egg industry treat hens like the living, feeling beings they are. You could start by banning the process of forced molting. Your response is requested.

Respectfully,

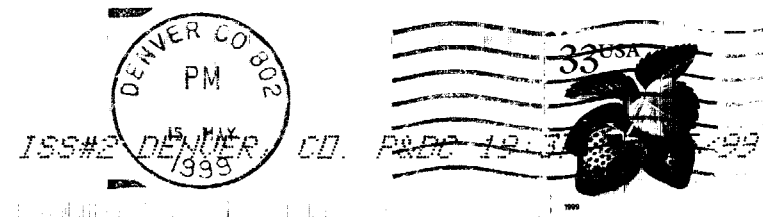
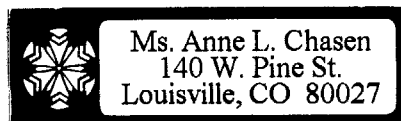
*Anne L. Chasen*

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